

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for manufacturing a molded detergent composition, the method comprising steps of:

(a) mixing a hydrated component and a hydratable component, without heating, to provide a mixture:

(i) the hydrated component having a melting point below about 100° C and comprising a transhydration product of an anhydrous material and water of hydration, the anhydrous material having a melting point greater than about 300° C;

(ii) the hydratable component comprising water, if present at all, at a level of less than about 2 wt.% based on the weight of the hydratable component; and

(iii) the hydratable component being a component which successfully competes with the hydrated component for at least a portion of the water of hydration;

(b) molding the mixture by extrusion to provide a molded detergent composition having a molded shape; and

(c) solidifying the molded detergent composition as a result of movement of the water of hydration from the hydrated component to the hydratable component to provide the molded detergent composition as a solid under conditions of room temperature and atmospheric pressure and having a melting point greater than about 30°C, wherein the step of solidifying takes about 1 minute to about 15 minutes.

2. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the hydrated component comprises a hydrated salt.

3. (Original) A method according to claim 2, wherein the hydrated salt comprises a hydrate of at least one of sodium silicate, lithium silicate, potassium silicate, sodium

metasilicate, sodium phosphate, calcium phosphate, magnesium phosphate, sodium pyrophosphate, sodium tripolyphosphate, sodium sulfate, sodium carbonate, sodium bicarbonate, sodium sesquicarbonate, sodium bisulfate, sodium thiosulfate, sodium percarbonate, and mixtures thereof.

4. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the hydratable component comprises at least one of nonionic surfactant, anionic surfactant, and mixture thereof.

5. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the step of mixing further comprises mixing butoxy ethanol with the hydrated component and the hydratable component.

6. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the weight ratio of the hydrated component to the hydratable component is between about 5:1 and about 20:1 based on an anhydrous weight of each component.

7. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the weight ratio of the hydrated component to the hydratable component is between about 8:1 and about 15:1 based on an anhydrous weight of each component.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the step of mixing comprises mixing an effective cleaning amount of an enzyme in the mixture.

11. (Original) A method according to claim 10, wherein the enzyme is present in an amount of between about 0.01 wt.% and about 10 wt.% based on the weight of the mixture.

12. (Original) A method according to claim 10, wherein the enzyme comprises at least one of protease, lipase, amylase, cellulase, and mixtures thereof.
13. (Original) A method according to claim 10, wherein the enzyme comprises a mixture of protease and cellulase.
14. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the mixture comprises at least one of a material sensitive to heat.
15. (Original) A method according to claim 14, wherein the material sensitive to heat comprises at least one of fragrances, dyes, preservatives, and enzymes.
16. (Currently Amended) A molded detergent composition comprising:
a result of mixing and molding a composition by extrusion without heating to compress the composition in a mold, the composition comprising:
- (a) hydrated component and a hydratable component;
 - (b) the hydrated component having a melting point below about 100° C and comprising a transhydration product of an anhydrous material and water of hydration, the anhydrous material having a melting point greater than about 300° C;
 - (c) the hydratable component comprising water, if present at all, at a level of less than about 2 wt.% based on the weight of the hydratable component;
 - (d) the hydratable component being a component which successfully competes with the hydrated component for at least a portion of the water of hydration; and
 - (e) the molded detergent composition being provided as a solid under conditions of room temperature and atmospheric pressure and having a melting point greater than about 30°C, wherein solidification results from movement of the water of hydration from the hydrated component to the hydratable component.
17. (Original) A molded detergent composition according to claim 16, said molded detergent composition being provided in the form of block.

18. (Original) A molded detergent composition according to claim 16, said molded detergent composition being provided in the form of pellets.
19. (Original) A molded detergent composition according to claim 16, wherein the hydrated component comprises a hydrated salt.
20. (Original) A molded detergent composition according to claim 16, wherein the hydrated salt comprises at least one of sodium silicate, lithium silicate, potassium silicate, sodium metasilicate, sodium phosphate, calcium phosphate, magnesium phosphate, sodium pyrophosphate, sodium tripolyphosphate, sodium sulfate, sodium carbonate, sodium bicarbonate, sodium sesquicarbonate, sodium bisulfate, sodium thiosulfate, sodium percarbonate, and mixtures thereof.
21. (Original) A molded detergent composition according to claim 16, further comprising about 1 wt.% to about 20 wt.% of an antimicrobial agent selected from at least one of quaternary ammonium compounds, phenolic derivatives, active halogen containing compounds, and mixtures thereof.
22. (Original) A molded detergent composition according to claim 16, wherein the hydratable component comprises at least one of nonionic surfactant, anionic surfactant, and mixture thereof.
23. (Original) A molded detergent composition according to claim 16, further comprising glycol ether.
24. (Original) A molded detergent composition according to claim 16, further comprising butoxy ethanol.
25. (Original) A molded detergent composition according to claim 16, wherein the weight ratio of the hydrated component to the hydratable component is between about 5:1 and about 20:1 based on an anhydrous weight of each component.

26. (Original) A molded detergent composition according to claim 16, wherein the weight ratio of the hydrated component to the hydratable component is between about 8:1 and about 15:1 based on an anhydrous weight of each component.

27. (Currently Amended) A method for manufacturing a molded detergent composition, the method comprising steps of:

- (a) mixing a hydrated component and a hydratable component to provide a mixture:
 - (i) the hydrated component having a melting point below about 100° C and comprising a transhydration product of an anhydrous material and water of hydration, the anhydrous material having a melting point greater than about 300° C;
 - (ii) the hydratable component comprising water, if present at all, at a level of less than about 2 wt.% based on the weight of the hydratable component;
 - (iii) the hydratable component being a component which successfully competes with the hydrated component for at least a portion of the water of hydration; and
 - (iv) the mixture comprising enzyme in an amount of between about 0.01 wt.% and about 10 wt.% based on the weight of the mixture;
- (b) molding the mixture by extrusion to provide a molded detergent composition having a molded shape; and
- (c) solidifying the molded detergent composition as a result of movement of the water of hydration from the hydrated component to the hydratable component to provide the molded detergent composition as a solid under conditions of room temperature and atmospheric pressure and having a melting point greater than about 30°C, wherein the step of solidifying takes about 1 minute to about 15 minutes.

28. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 27, wherein the enzyme comprises at least one of protease, lipase, amylase, cellulase, and mixtures thereof.

29. (Currently Amended) A molded detergent composition comprising:

a result of mixing and molding a composition by extrusion to compress the composition in a mold comprising:

- (a) hydrated component and a hydratable component;
- (b) the hydrated component having a melting point below about 100° C and comprising a transhydration product of an anhydrous material and water of hydration, the anhydrous material having a melting point greater than about 300° C;
- (c) the hydratable component comprising water, if present at all, at a level of less than about 2 wt.% based on the weight of the hydratable component;
- (d) the hydratable component being a component which successfully competes with the hydrated component for at least a portion of the water of hydration;
- (e) the molded detergent composition being provided as a solid under conditions of room temperature and atmospheric pressure and having a melting point greater than about 30°C, wherein solidification results from movement of the water of hydration from the hydrated component to the hydratable component; and
- (f) enzyme in an amount of between about 0.01 wt.% and about 10 wt.% based on the weight of the composition.

30. (Previously Presented) A molded detergent composition according to claim 29, wherein the enzyme comprises at least one of protease, lipase, amylase, cellulase, and mixtures thereof.

31. (Currently Amended) A method for manufacturing a molded detergent composition, the method comprising steps of:

- (a) mixing a hydrated component and a hydratable component to provide a mixture:
 - (i) the hydrated component having a melting point below about 100° C and comprising a transhydration product of an anhydrous material and water of hydration, the anhydrous material having a melting point greater than about 300° C;
 - (ii) the hydratable component comprising water, if present at all, at a level of less than about 2 wt.% based on the weight of the hydratable component;

- (iii) the hydratable component being a component which successfully competes with the hydrated component for at least a portion of the water of hydration; and
 - (iv) the mixture comprising solvent containing volatile organic compounds;
 - (b) molding the mixture by extrusion to provide a molded detergent composition having a molded shape; and
 - (c) solidifying the molded detergent composition as a result of movement of the water of hydration from the hydrated component to the hydratable component to provide the molded detergent composition as a solid under conditions of room temperature and atmospheric pressure and having a melting point greater than about 30°C, wherein the step of solidifying takes about 1 minutes to about 15 minutes.
32. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 31, wherein the solvent comprises butoxy ethanol.
33. (Currently Amended) A molded detergent composition comprising:
a result of mixing and molding a composition by extrusion to compress the composition in a mold comprising:
- (a) hydrated component and a hydratable component;
 - (b) the hydrated component having a melting point below about 100° C and comprising a transhydration product of an anhydrous material and water of hydration, the anhydrous material having a melting point greater than about 300° C;
 - (c) the hydratable component comprising water, if present at all, at a level of less than about 2 wt.% based on the weight of the hydratable component;
 - (d) the hydratable component being a component which successfully competes with the hydrated component for at least a portion of the water of hydration;
 - (e) the molded detergent composition being provided as a solid under conditions of room temperature and atmospheric pressure and having a melting point greater than about 30°C, wherein solidification results from movement of the water of hydration from the hydrated component to the hydratable component; and
 - (f) the composition comprising solvent containing volatile organic compounds.

34. (Previously Presented) A molded detergent composition according to claim 33, wherein the solvent comprises butoxy ethanol.
35. (New) A molded detergent composition according to claim 16, wherein the molded detergent composition is provided in the form of pellets having an average diameter of about 0.5 cm to about 2 cm.
36. (New) A molded detergent composition according to claim 16, wherein the molded detergent composition is provided in the form of a block having a diameter of about 2 cm to about 2 ft.
37. (New) A molded detergent composition according to claim 29, wherein the molded detergent composition is provided in the form of pellets having an average diameter of about 0.5 cm to about 2 cm.
38. (New) A molded detergent composition according to claim 29, wherein the molded detergent composition is provided in the form of a block having a diameter of about 2 cm to about 2 ft.
39. (New) A molded detergent composition according to claim 33, wherein the molded detergent composition is provided in the form of pellets having an average diameter of about 0.5 cm to about 2 cm.
40. (New) A molded detergent composition according to claim 33, wherein the molded detergent composition is provided in the form of a block having a diameter of about 2 cm to about 2 ft.

Support For Amendment

The independent claims are amended to characterize the molded detergent composition as a composition resulting from molding by extrusion. This feature is supported by canceled claim 8 and by the specification at page 5, lines 6-9.

Independent method claims 1, 27, and 31 are amended to more clearly reflect that the molded detergent composition has a molded shape, and that the step of solidifying takes about 1 minute to about 15 minutes. These characterizations are supported by the specification at page 9, line 29 through page 10, line 7, and at page 3, lines 15-19.

Independent composition claims 16, 29, and 33 are amended to more clearly reflect that the molded detergent composition is a result of compressing the composition in a mold. This feature is supported by the specification at page 3, lines 19-28.

New claims 35-40 are supported by the specification at page 3, line 28 through page 4, line 3.

Claims 8 and 9 are canceled.

The Amendment introduces no new matter, and entry thereof is requested. Upon entry, claims 1-7 and 10-40 are active in this application.